

# The Signature

Vol. 19 No. 20

Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily

Friday, May 24, 2002

## Armed Forces Day brings recess to Sigonella



Photo by SN Michelle Watkins

Security and HC 4 compete for points in water tag with Security taking the lead. NASSIG celebrated Armed Forces Day with a School Yard Rules Command Challenge. Service members represented their commands in a variety of schoolyard games to earn points for Captain's Cup. Events included dodge ball, kickball, water tag, tetherball, hopscotch, and tricycle races. Participants were fed lunch, dinner, and a late night snack.



By Alberto Lunetta,  
Community Relations

### Ancient Greek Drama Festival begins in Siracusa

"The beautiful fables of the Greeks, being proper creations of the imagination and not of the fancy, are universal verities," wrote 19<sup>th</sup> century American writer and philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson in his "Essays."

It's been over 2,000 years, and these fascinating and dramatic plays depicting the feelings of the Ancient Greeks still touch the hearths of contemporary audiences throughout the world.

Siracusa's Ancient Drama Festival boasts a world-renowned tradition that dates back to 1914 and annually draws more than 90,000 attendees.

The festival, which is housed in a magnificent Greek theater built in the third century BC, presents two tragic dramas including "Prometheus Bound," by Aeschylus (May 24, 28, 31; June 4, 7, 11, 14, 18, 21, 24, 27), "The Bacchae," by Euripides (May 25, 29; June 1, 5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 25, 28) and one satirical comedy, "The Frogs," by Aristophanes (May 26, 30; June 2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 26, 29).

All plays feature modern scen-

eries therefore don't be surprised if you see cars on the stage or actors wearing sunglasses or yet soldiers dressed in camouflage.

#### "Prometheus Bound" by Aeschylus (525-456 BC)

In his plays, the author focuses on the free spirit of humankind whose transgressions are punished by the gods. Aeschylus is also popular for having introduced new stage elements in Greek dramas such as another main actor as well as costumes, stage decoration and super-numeraries.

#### Summary

Kratos and Bia, two Zeus servants, chain to a rock Prometheus (one of the Titans or giants children of Uranus and Gaea, who sought to rule heaven and were overthrown and supplanted by the family of Zeus) for having stolen fire from the gods for the benefits of humankind. The punishment given by Zeus is terrible as every day, a giant eagle, devours his liver that regenerates overnight.

A sea-nymph chorus, upset about the suffering of the giant, asks Prometheus what he has done to mankind to deserve such a punishment. Prometheus admits his crime and says he was aware he was doing wrong because he foretells the future. However, Prometheus knows Zeus is destined to fall because of a woman whose name he would not reveal until his bonds were freed. The god Hermes, a messenger of Zeus, rejects his request. Even amid the fire from heaven hurled at him in a fright-

ening climax, Prometheus remains fearless and silent. Eventually, Zeus casts the defiant Prometheus deep into the earth.

#### "The Bacchae" by Euripides (485-406 BC)

Greek tragic dramatist Euripides is considered the most revolutionary Greek dramatist. In his works, he displays an interest in telling more about the human emotions of ordinary characters, such as oppressed women and slaves, rather than mythological gods.

#### Summary

Dionysus, son of Zeus end Semele and nephew of former king Cadmus, arrives in Thebes with a group of Bacchae (worshippers of Dionysus), having taken the form of a human being.

He intends to claim his divine origins and establish himself as god in the city that refused to worship him as a god. Dionysus also wants to punish this city where lightning burnt his mother to ashes. He begins by forcing all the women of Thebes to move to mount Cithaeron and celebrate his rites. While blind prophets Tiresias and Cadmus enthusiastically join the new cult, Pentheus, the young king of the city denies Dionysus's godhood and orders his imprisonment. But a series of dreadful events occur devastating the king. The earth shakes, the palace appears to be in flames, Dionysus takes on the shape of a bull, of a ghost. Eventually, Dionysus frees himself from his chains and confronts Pentheus.

Meanwhile, a slave returns from Mount Cithaeron and tells Pentheus of the Bacchae who were at first tranquil and peaceful, but then as they felt hunted down, have now turned into Furies (The three mythological terrible winged goddesses with serpentine hair) assaulting herdsmen, slashing herds, and looting villages.

Dionysus persuades Pentheus, who wants to send troops against the Furies, to give up his intention and suggests instead that he spy on the Bacchae from behind the bushes, disguised as a woman.

When he gets to Mount Cithaeron, Pentheus is killed and torn apart by his mother Agave who mistook him for a wild beast and the Bacchae.

Once Agave is back in Thebes, she parades displaying Pentheus' head on a pike proudly inviting everybody to admire her prey. But Cadmus brings her back to reason and tells her that it was not a beast but her son Pentheus. Lamenting their doomed fate, Cadmus and Agave realize that Dionysus has cursed their city for their disbelief and try to put together Pentheus' dismembered body, whose pieces were scattered on the Cithaeron. The misfortunes are not over, as Dionysus foretells further evils and woes.

#### "The Frogs" by Aristophanes (448-380 BC)

Aristophanes, one of the greatest of all Greek comic dramatists, is considered a great source of information about politics, personalities, morality, literature and everyday life

## Motor scooters can be dangerous

By Marija Marino

Contributing writer

Motorized scooters are increasing in popularity. They are two-wheel scooters, similar to unpowered scooters, but are equipped with either a small gasoline engine or an electric motor and a battery. Parents beware! Before you go out and purchase a motorized scooter for your child make sure you check with local authorities for riding guidelines and restrictions.

Here in Sigonella, motorized scooters, go-carts, and mini-bikes may not be operated in Government Housing areas. In addition to the nuisance they create, motorized scooters can be dangerous as well. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reported that in 2000, there were an estimated 4,390 hospital emergency room treated injuries associated with motorized scooters. This represents more than a 200 percent increase over the year 1999 estimate of 1,330 injuries.

If you plan on riding a motorized scooter, the Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends the following safety guidelines:

- Wear a bicycle helmet that meets CPSC's standard, along with knee and elbow pads.
- Wear sturdy shoes.
- Owners of motorized scooters should check with local authorities for riding guidelines and restrictions (motorized scooters are prohibited in Government Housing areas).
- Do not ride at night.
- Children under 12 should not ride motorized scooters.



in Classical Athens. This comedy is a literary burlesque satire involving Aeschylus and Euripides. It was written in 405 BC.

#### Summary

God of wine Dionysus, a nostalgic theatergoer who laments the lack of good contemporary dramatists, misses dead poet Euripides and therefore wishes to bring him back from Hades.

Thus, Dionysus disguised as Hercules and his servant Xanthias, undertake a journey to the underworld to bring back their favorite dramatist. The god of wine and his slave are ferried across Hades through a chorus of croaking frogs to meet with Pluto, the king of the underworld. Once Dionysus arrives to the home of Pluto, he finds out that Euripides has overthrown Aeschylus from being the most famous tragedian poet. Pluto stages a competition between the two poets to dispute the place of honor as "King of Tragedy" and appoints Dionysus judge. Euripides and Aeschylus sing and declaim each

other. A scale is brought to "weigh" the verses from each poet's writings poetry.

Eventually, Aeschylus wins over his antagonist. The outcome of the contest brings Dionysus to change his mind. Surprising the audience, the god of wine brings Aeschylus back to earth instead of Euripides.

#### Tickets

For more information and tickets call "Antico Mercato di Ortigia" at 0931-449201, (Open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 3 to 7 p.m.; Sunday from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.)

Tickets can also be purchased at the Greek Theater ticket office in Siracusa (phone 0931-21887). The cost of the tickets ranges from 12 to 77 Euro depending on seat (with or without a number assigned) and the day of the play. The commission for pre-paid ticket is 10 percent. The office is open everyday from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

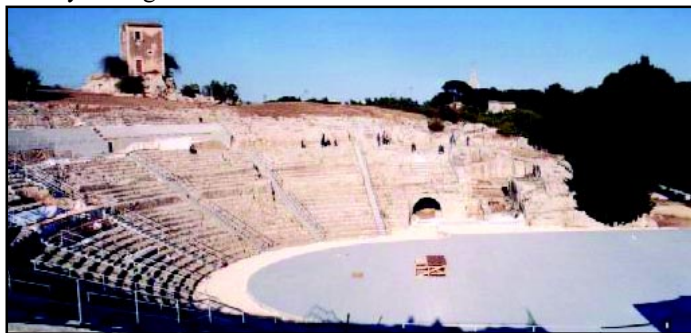


Photo courtesy of Siracusa Tourist Office

The magnificent 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC Siracusa Greek Theater hosts the prestigious Ancient Greek Drama Festival through June 9.

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## Italian phrase of the week...

**Conosce un buon ristorante  
nei  
dintorni?**

(Do you know  
any good restaurant  
nearby?)





SECURITY BLOTTER



Helping make the  
community aware

CRIME STOPPER'S HOTLINE 624-6389

May 12 - May 19

The following incidents were reported and categorized as follows:

- Traffic accidents without injuries - 7
- Traffic accident with injuries - 2
- Car break-ins - 3
- DUI - 1
- DUI's 2002 - 12
- DUI's 2001 - 33

The

Signature

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Direct Line

Capt. Tim Davison, NASSIG  
Commanding Officer



It is hard to believe that May is almost over. We have been extremely busy here with an increased number of visits, inspections and operational commitments. Sigonellans continue to display their professionalism, flexibility and willingness to work together under tight deadlines. I want to say thank you to all of our community members, especially those who volunteer, on a job well done.

We try to recognize everyone's efforts and commitment to make Sigonella a great place to live and work. This month we held many volunteer appreciation ceremonies and breakfasts in addition to celebrating Military Spouse Appreciation Day, and Caregivers Day. I recently received an email about one of our outstanding Sailors whose volunteering has really made a difference in the lives of some community members. Many of the

MWR classes offered are taught by Sigonellans not for profit, but the simple satisfaction of giving back to the community. MA3 Sensei Rommel Cortezano is just one of those dedicated instructors who teaches a free Karate class three times a week that focuses on self-defense and exercise. Thank you Petty Officer Cortezano, on behalf of the entire community.

There are a lot of exciting events taking place over the next few days and weeks that I want to bring to everyone's attention and invite all of Sigonella to participate in.

Today, May 24, we are hosting Police Force Day at the NAS II ball fields from 10:30 a.m. to Noon. This is a dynamic community event where our U.S. Security personnel join together with a number of the local Italian law enforcement agencies, and demonstrate their skills and equipment. I encourage everyone to come out and see these professionals in action.

Next Friday, May 31, we will celebrate the Grand Opening of our new Navy Exchange/Defense Commissary Shopping Complex with a ribbon cutting ceremony on NAS I at 10 a.m. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open the new complex for shoppers as well as door prizes, giveaways and free samples. I know everyone has been eagerly awaiting the completion of our new facility, which also happens to be the largest and newest one-stop shopping complex in Europe. It will be stocked full of merchandise, a food court, beauty salon, barbershop, flower, book, electronic stores, and the commissary, which boasts an in-store bakery and expanded deli/meat counter all under one roof. The new shopping complex is truly the first of our Recap projects to be enjoyed and utilized by the entire Sigonella community.

We also have a new outdoor market in the Mineo Housing Community every Monday. If you haven't been, you need to check it out. I went last Monday and it is great! The market is open from 8 a.m. until 2p.m. with approximately 30 local vendors who have their booths set up near the ball fields. The Housing Department is working with vendors to move the market day to Sunday when it may be a bit more convenient.

And don't forget Memorial Day, on Monday, May 27. It is a day to celebrate America's freedom, and honor the men and women who have served and continue to serve our great nation.

The Pulse

Answers to all your immunization questions



By Lt. Theresa Albright

Contributing writer

The following is a list of common questions as result of the recent shortage of vaccines around the U.S.

**There are reports of vaccine shortages in the U.S. Why did this happen?**

Four of the routine childhood immunizations are affected. Reasons for the shortages include companies leaving the market, problems with vaccine manufacturing, and insufficient vaccine supply. Shortages vary by geographical area and by practice.

**Are there enough vaccines to go around to the children of Sigonella?**

Yes, with the exception of Prevnar. This is a vaccine that was licensed in 2000 to prevent serious illnesses caused by the bacteria *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. The shortage of Prevnar is due to greater-than-expected demand for the vaccine. Although some practices in the U.S. may be experiencing shortages of multiple vaccines, Prevnar is the only vaccine in short supply at the NH Sigonella. We receive regular updates from our suppliers about the availability of vaccines.

**What happens if children don't receive Prevnar?**

The bacteria that Prevnar protects children from may cause ear infections, pneumonia, and meningitis. However, serious infection is rare in otherwise healthy children. Children usually receive this vaccine at 2, 4, 6, and 15 months of age. Studies have shown that children who have received at least two doses of Prevnar have some protection against *S. pneumoniae*. For children who have not yet received all of the doses, we will use a schedule recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics to bring all children up to date when more vaccine becomes available. The latest reports from the manufacturer indicate that this will be in the fall of 2002.

**Why should children receive vaccines?**

Vaccines protect children against serious viral and bacterial illnesses. Children who have been vaccinated prevent disease from spreading in the community. Even though the diseases prevented by some vaccines are rare, they still exist (especially outside the U.S.) and can cause significant health problems. Children need vaccinations to attend school.

**What problems may kids run into if they don't get vaccines?**

Routine childhood vaccinations protect kids against 11 diseases. These diseases cause meningitis, brain damage, liver failure, pneumonia, paralysis, hemorrhage and even death. Children who are sick miss school and their parents miss work.

**What can parents do during the vaccine shortage?**

Parents should keep a record of their child's immunizations to ensure that no doses are missed. More information can be found at [www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org) or [www.cdc.gov/nip/](http://www.cdc.gov/nip/). Parents are encouraged to contact their child's primary care manager with any questions or concerns about Prevnar or other vaccines.

Letters to the Editor

Why can't we all watch?

I am an active duty spouse stationed here in Sigonella. I have been here for two years. I am aware that the movies here on base are free. I am happy to see this, but I feel that if the management of the theater lists a movie as a sneak preview that it is actually a sneak preview. I know that this has happened a few times in the past that the theater shows movies without listing them on the marque' or paper listings. MWR is here for the Sailors and their families, but if they show a movie and it is not reserved (by paying for the theater and movie) then they should allow the general public of the base in. The management shows sneak previews on most Sunday nights and they allow only certain people in. Some weekends it is all MWR employees and other times just who the management feels they want. I feel this is unsatisfactory and the people of Sigonella should be allowed to view the movies also.

--A concerned movie fan

Dear Concerned Movie Fan,

A benefit of working at the Theater is fulfilling the Navy Motion Picture Service (NMPS) requirement of viewing movies in advance of public showings. This requirement ensures the integrity of the film as well as verifies that there is no extra footage added to the movie. On special occasions, MWR Theater employees and/or MWR employees are allowed to take part in this process as an employee incentive for their continued hard work. Movies are not shown on a regular basis on Sunday nights and on the rare occasion they are shown, it is after business hours. As the writer indicated, MWR is here for the Sailor and families, but this employee perk doesn't cost any MWR dollars and it fulfills a NMPS requirement at the same time. Moreover, nearly 98 percent of MWR employees are Sailors or family members. Thank you for enabling us to clarify this policy on a public level. To apply for a job at MWR, please stop by HRO and the MWR Administrative Office on NAS II.

--Theater Management

April's Yard of the  
Month Winners

AD1 Alfonso Canales and Family  
205 Yard of the Month

BU3 Donald Dorrough and Family  
Mineo Yard of the Month

Lt. Curtis Page and Family  
On-Base Yard of the Month



Crab Stuffed Mushrooms

Bea Cook

Contributing writer

- 12 extra large mushrooms
- 4 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1 cup crabmeat
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 2 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 1 1/2 teaspoon lemon juice
- Dash Worcestershire sauce
- Dash Tabasco
- 1/2 cup breadcrumbs

Remove the stems from the mushrooms. Brush the caps with butter and place on a cookie sheet. Pre-heat the oven to 375 degrees. Blend together the crab, eggs, mayonnaise, lemon juice, worcestershire, tabasco and half of the breadcrumbs in a mixing bowl. Add the mixture to the mushroom caps. Top with the remaining breadcrumbs. Drizzle on the butter. Cook for 15 minutes.





# From the Fleet



## TSP Open Season Starts Wednesday

Chief of Naval Personnel  
Public Affairs Office

WASHINGTON — Sailors who want to begin investing for their future in TSP can sign up during the open season through July 31. Those already in the plan can increase their contributions up to the allowable level. Saving for the future while young is a valuable lesson to learn, and judging by the TSP sign up rate during the initial sign up period, many Sailors are learning the lesson. Over 17 percent of the Navy decided to invest in their future through TSP.

Efforts to educate Sailors on the benefits of TSP have garnered stellar results. Leaders in the Fleet, in their respective ship classes, include the amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD 2) homeported in Sasebo, Japan, with 330 Sailors signing up for TSP. USS Cleveland (LPD 7), homeported in San Diego, Calif., had 166 crewmembers sign up.

The disbursing clerks in USS Ford (FFG 54), homeported in Everett, Wash., thought the TSP so important they took it upon themselves to educate every crewmember on the benefits of the program. Last June, they designed and implemented a TSP seminar that explained the program. The seminar described the TSP's five funds and what each one has to offer. It also shows why it is essential to start saving for the future now. The result was 111, or more than half, of the approximately 200 crewmembers signing up for the program.

Other success stories include the aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74), homeported in San Diego, Calif., where 1,334 of its crewmembers are contributing to TSP. Two other ships with high TSP enrolled in their respective ship classes are the destroyers USS O'Kane (DDG 77), homeported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, with 102 and USS John Young (DD 973), homeported in San Diego, Calif., with 83.

Other notable ships with high TSP enrollment include:  
-Cruiser USS Monterey (CG 61), homeport of Norfolk, Va., signed up 140 of its crew.  
-Amphibious command ship, USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19), homeported in Yokosuka Japan, has 307 Sailors investing in TSP.  
-Submarine tender USS Emory S. Land (AS 39), homeported in La Maddalena, Italy with 325 Sailors signed up for TSP.  
-The command ship USS La Salle (AGF 3), forward deployed in Gaeta, Italy, has 177 in TSP.  
-The amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5),

home port of San Diego, Calif., signed up a total of 126 crewmembers.

"Clearly Fleet leadership is making a difference on getting the word to their Sailors on the value of paying yourself first. The beauty of paying yourself first is that very few of the Sailors contributing to TSP say that they miss the money they are investing in their financial future," said Chief of Naval Personnel, Vice Adm. Norb Ryan Jr.

TSP works much like the civilian 401(K) savings plan, pre-tax dollars are invested to provide retirement monies for Sailors. Taxes are deferred on TSP contributions, meaning no federal (and in most cases, state) income taxes are paid on contributions or earnings until the money is withdrawn, usually at retirement when many are in a lower tax bracket.

Contributions to TSP can range from as little as one percent to seven percent of basic pay in 2002 also bonus, special or incentive pay may be contributed - up to the \$11,000 IRS tax limit allowed in 2002. For those serving in a combat zone, the current ceiling for contributions is \$40,000. Basic pay contribution limits increase through 2006 when TSP contributions will be limited only by IRS rules.

TSP was not designed to replace the military's retirement plans. It is meant to be a convenient way for Sailors to invest in a variety of investment vehicles to provide additional money for retirement.

TSP investments may be directed to any of five different funds, which vary in risk and investment mixture. The five funds are government securities investment (G fund), fixed income investment (F fund), common stock index investment (C fund), small capitalization stock index investment (S fund), and international stock index investment (I fund). Contributions are initially directed to the G fund. Sailors can then redirect their investment once the account is active.

Sailors can transfer any amount of money into the TSP from certain qualified retirement savings plans in which they are already invested.

TSP account balances are transferable to an eligible retirement plan if a Sailor leaves the service. This option makes TSP an attractive investment whether someone serves four or 30 years.

"TSP is an outstanding opportunity for all our Sailors to provide for their financial future. I encourage all Sailors to learn more by speaking with financial counselors or using the Web site during this open enrollment period," Ryan said. "Thanks to the power of compounding, investing in TSP will be a decision that will provide tax benefits in the short term and financial gain in the long run."

## Chain-whipping Robot's a Mine-Blower in Afghanistan

By Gerry J. Gilmore  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The hard case, dressed in olive drab, sat sullenly on the floor. The nickname, "mini," seems a misnomer; there are stories about chains being whipped about to explosive effect.

The dangerous job of blowing up anti-personnel land mines is the remote-controlled mini flail's specialty. Co developed by the Army and Marine Corps, the robot looks somewhat like a scaled-down, driverless Zamboni machine.

For military and humanitarian reasons, the robot has cleared mines for years in Bosnia and Kosovo. Now, it's a veteran of Afghanistan.

The diesel-powered machine is sheathed in Kevlar-type armor and uses a front-mounted, rotating drum that has lengths of heavy chain attached. The chains flail the ground ahead and the impacts blow up buried land mines, said Ed Price, a robotic analyst working for the Unmanned Ground Vehicles/Systems Joint Project Office at Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

The U.S. military participated in humanitarian land mine removal missions in Kuwait after the Gulf War, Price noted, when that country was littered with ordnance left behind by departed Iraqi forces.

First fielded in Kuwait in 1996, the mini flail was subsequently deployed to Bosnia and Kosovo, Price said.

"Now, we have them in Afghanistan," he noted, "both for humanitarian (missions) and war operations."

The mini flail's four rubber-tired wheels can be sheathed inside a detachable metal track that helps the 2,600-pound device to cross uneven ground, Price said.

The device's drum, he noted, can be counter-rotated to cause the chains to throw or sweep away land mines.

Price said operators usually combat engineers direct the mini flail via remote control from 300 meters away.

This, he noted, takes "the soldier out of harm's way" during mine-clearing operations.

He said the machines would be still be challenged by more powerful land mines, such as anti-tank mines available in military inventories.

"You can't replace a soldier, but you can replace a vehicle," Cole said, adding that the mini flail protects both service members and civilians in both war and other-than-war operations.

"To know that we're helping to keep people safe you just can't put a price on that," she added.



Contributing writer

## Sigonella Dive Club gets involved with local community

By La Rocca Carmelo

Sigonella Diving Club serves as a point of contact for all divers. The club's main goal is to enforce safety for both recreational and novice divers. Some key things to remember before diving are: never dive alone and make sure your buddy is a certified swimmer. Always have your equipment serviced and checked before diving, make safety stops every 15 feet for three minutes while surfacing and know your depth limitations to avoid exceeding them and placing yourself in danger.

It is also very important to know what to do in case of an emergency. If you're with a diver in trouble, quickly bring the diver to the surface and check for breathing. Get assistance as needed in providing resuscitation, and help remove the diver from the water. Call for professional help while keeping airways open and start resuscitation. Observe the diver constantly for any change, make a mental note of condition to report once professionals are on scene.

The dive club not only enforces safety, but they also teach the sport and they participate in community events. Twice a year the dive club participates in a harbor clean up. This year they will be conducting their 10<sup>th</sup> Padi project at Stazzo (Acireale) on June 9. Divers will go to the wreck of capo Mulini where a clean up will be conducted followed by a barbeque. If you are a qualified diver and would like to participate in the clean up or just need more information on the club, call Carmelo at 624-4311 ext:105.



An E-5 was found guilty of failure to go to appointed place of duty. The member was awarded 10 days restriction, 10 days extra duty, and reduction to the next inferior pay grade (suspended six months).

An E-3 was found guilty of failure to go to appointed place of duty. The member was awarded 30 days restriction, 30 days extra duty, forfeiture of \$619 pay per month for two months, and reduction to the next inferior pay grade.

An E-3 was found guilty of drunken operation of a vehicle and was awarded 45 days restriction, 45 days extra duty, forfeiture of \$619 pay per month for two months, and reduction to the next inferior pay grade.

## Ad space

## Photo



By Alberto Lunetta  
Community Relations

# Italian News

## SICILIAN CULTURE AND LIFESTYLE

### Potato Festival in Torregrotta

The 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the Potato Festival will be held on Sat. and Sun. in Torregrotta, a small town located in the hinterland of the Gulf of Milazzo in the Messina province. The festival, which celebrates one of the best potato producing areas in Sicily, features folklore parades, arts and crafts markets, art exhibitions and stands for a free tasting of delicious potato-based dishes. Festivities kick off on tomorrow at 2 p.m.

Sunday, the “Longano” folklore group parades through the city center. The show begins at 4 p.m. Later at 7 p.m., stands open in the main square.

The historic origin of Torregrotta dates back to 1168 when Guglielmo II, King of Sicily, donated to the Abbess of the Santa Maria La Scala Benedictine Convent in Messina, the “Casale Comitis,” a hamlet founded by the Saracens. The Casale was located in a fertile area that produced wine and silk. In 1527, emperor Carlo V authorized the construction of defensive walls defend the farmers from invasions. Today, city visitors can still admire the ruins of these imposing medieval constructions.

#### Scicli hosts Virgin Mary Festival

A religious festival in honor of the “Madonna delle Milizie” or “Virgin Mary of the Troops” will be held in Scicli on May 25. The festival features religious processions and a spectacular reenactment of a battle between the city people and the Saracens that took place in 1091. Tradition tells that the Saracens landed on a plain that is called

“Milici,” from where they attacked the city, which was a stronghold of Christians. Although the Scicli army was short in soldiers, the Saracens were eventually defeated thanks to the miraculous intervention of the Virgin Mary that appeared on the battlefield riding a white horse and wielding a flaming sword. The gratitude of the city toward the mother of Jesus, who worked out such a prodigious event giving the Christian soldiers the strength to defend themselves from the Muslims, is so strong that every year, this victorious battle is celebrated on the last Saturday of May. Starting at 8 p.m., the evocative atmosphere of the struggle between Christians and Saracens is recreated in piazza Italia, the main square. Actors in medieval costumes stage the most important moments of that battle. The highlight of the performance is the appearance of a precious 19<sup>th</sup> century paper-mâché statue depicting Mary.

Scicli is an elegant town that has amazing churches and buildings and breath taking landscapes featuring rocky faces.

The name Scicli comes from “Siclis” or Siculi the ancient inhabitants of Sicily. The Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Normans and Aragonese conquered the city throughout the centuries.

A terrible earthquake in 1693 completely destroyed this amazing medieval town. From the ruins, a splendid town was rebuilt and today it is considered as a “pearl of baroque,” which still features part of its medieval layout.

An ideal tour of the town should start from

the central piazza Italia that is surrounded by numerous 18<sup>th</sup> century buildings. In the square, it rises the Cattedrale (cathedral) of Sant’ Ignazio and Sant’Matteo. The church features a notable painting depicting the battle between the Muslims and the Christians by 18<sup>th</sup> century painter Francesco Pascucci and preserves the paper-mâché statue depicting Mary.

The 18<sup>th</sup> century church of San Bartolomeo, has a unique wooden living nativity from 1573, which is among the most ancient in Sicily and is currently being restored.

Must-see stops also include the baroque buildings of Palazzo Beneventano located in via Duca d’Aosta (near the cathedral) and Palazzo Spadaro in via F. Mormino Penna, a mesmerizing Baroque street flanked by three magnificent churches (San Giovanni, San Michele and Santa Teresa).

Before you leave Scicli, visit the beautiful Church of San Matteo that overlooks the town from a hill. Sitting atop the hill are also the ruins of a medieval castle.

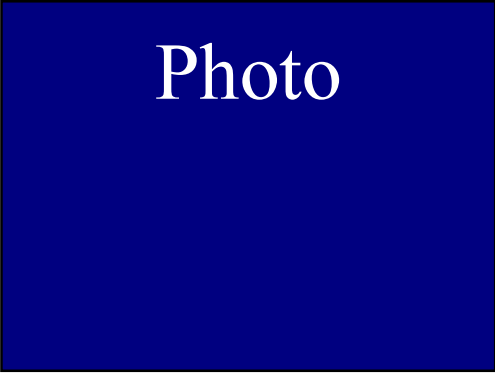


Photo courtesy of Scicli Tourist Office

This precious 19<sup>th</sup> century paper-mâché statue depicting Mary riding a white horse and wielding a flaming sword is carried during a spectacular reenactment of a battle between the Christians of Scicli and the Saracens that took place in 1091. The performance is the highlight of a religious festival in honor of the “Madonna delle Milizie” or “Virgin Mary of the Troops which is held in Scicli tomorrow.

Ad space





	Friday, May 24	Saturday, May 25	Sunday, May 26	Monday, May 27	Tuesday, May 28	Wednesday, May 29	Thursday, May 30	
Week at a glance	Photo							Week at a glance

## HOROSCOPES

**ARIES:** You can raise your standard of living if you pick up some freelance work on the side. You like to stay busy and now is your chance to do just that. You will be uncertain of your feelings. You may lose your popularity suddenly; someone you know could be trying to undermine you. Don't tell others of your plans. You could be misinterpreted if you're not careful.

**TAURUS:** Short trips to visit others will do the whole family a world of good. Your uncanny insight will help you make the right choices. Focus on your own domestic problems. You need to get out and be an observer. Take the whole family and make it an enjoyable outing. Relatives will be happy that you dropped by.

**GEMINI:** Don't let your mate force you into making a decision that you aren't ready to make. You need to distance yourself from the situation for a little while first. Health problems may prevail if you don't take care of them immediately.

**CANCER:** Spend time with youngsters this week. You can help them with difficult projects. Do not get upset over trivial matters. Changes could be overwhelming. Relatives may be less than easy to deal with.

**LEO:** Secret affairs will come back to haunt you. Try to be fair in your dealings with acquaintances. You must not lead someone on or show interest in them for the wrong reasons. Emotional deception is evident. Try to be honest when dealing with your mate. You may be up for some changes in your home.

**VIRGO:** Do not let them blow situations out of proportion. You are best to avoid confrontations. You could have a tendency to spend too much on your home or entertainment. You may have a problem with someone you live with if you don't include them in your gathering.

**LIBRA:** You can make a difference if you take a position of leadership. Don't hesitate to look for alternatives that will enable you to raise the kind of donations you need to do the job right. Misunderstandings at work could easily lead to your demise. Avoid scandals of any sort.

**SCORPIO:** Do not borrow or lend money or belongings to friends or relatives if you wish to avoid any disagreements. You may have a tendency to put on weight. This will be a good week for research and for sitting down with some good, informative reading material.

**SAGITTARIUS:** You will find your personal partner taxing this week. Nagging has never been something that you could tolerate, and it's once again driving you into a lonely state of affairs. Escapist tendencies may lead to overindulgence. Avoid friends or acquaintances who drink too much. The battle continues.

**CAPRICORN:** Do not be surprised if your partner doesn't understand your needs. Try to take care of the needs of those you love. Don't blow situations out of proportion. Changes in your home are apparent, and you must be willing to bend if you don't want to find yourself alone.

**AQUARIUS:** You should get into some of those creative hobbies that you always said you wanted to do. You'll meet new friends if you try new activities. You need a change of pace. Start doing some fancy footwork or there is a good chance you'll find yourself all alone.

**PISCES:** Minor accidents could occur if you don't take precautions. Do not get involved with individuals who are already committed to others. You will easily capture the interest of those you talk to. Pleasure trips will be favorable and bring about romance. Residential moves will be in your best interest.



## THE MOVIE CONNECTION



Photo

\*\*\* Future Re-release \*\*Sneak Preview \*Last Showing  
(All times and movies are subject to change. For more information on the schedule, call the movie hotline at 624-4248).

### Panic Room (Rated R)

When a newly divorced mother and her young daughter lock themselves in their New York brownstone's panic room, a hidden chamber built as a sanctuary in the event of break-ins, they expect to be safe from the brutal burglars who have invaded their home. Little do they know that what the robbers really want is what is inside that very room.

### The Sweetest Thing (Rated R)

After years of avoiding meaningful relationships with men, a sexy and bold woman unexpectedly meets her perfect match. When she finds out that he's left town the next day, she and a friend set out to find him on a wild road trip. Ultimately, their search leads them to the surprising discovery that love really is the sweetest thing.

### Clockstoppers (Rated PG)

A top-secret government research and development project goes astray when their key scientist tries to get out of the business. Prior to escaping, he sends a prototype on his invention, a hyper time "watch" to a former professor. The professor's son gets his hands on the watch and quickly discovers the "watch's" power. Now the government is after the escaped scientist, the professor and his son.

- 1) What city is Disneyland's main street modeled after?  
2) Which hand is Captain Hook's, hook on?  
3) In Bambi, what word does owl describe love with?  
4) What is the name of Pocohantas's father?  
5) In Toy Story, what game does the slinky play?

(Answers on page 7)

### Best Sellers-- Summer Pest Control

Lentek PR30G-3G Ultrasonic Pest Repeller (3-Pack)  
Flowtron MA-1000 Octenol Mosquito Attractant Cartridge  
Flowtron FA-5000 Fly Sex Lure  
Lentek PC02G PestContro Deluxe  
Flowtron MT-150 Mosquito PowerTrap



## They did what? Physical Evidence!

A well-known Northern Democrat who campaigned for states' rights during the Civil War was convicted of treason for his speeches attacking the administration of President Lincoln in 1863. He was banished to the South, where he continued to voice his extreme political views. After the war, he became a lawyer. In his last appearance in the courtroom, he represented a client on trial for murder. The accused man's defense was that the victim had drawn his own gun in a fashion that caused it to fire, killing himself. To prove the defense argument, Vallandigham demonstrated the victim's method of drawing a gun, using the loaded evidence gun as his prop. The firearm went off, and he lost his life, but proved his case.

## Off the Rack!

### Someone Like You



This movie is a chick flick to the extreme, which is the very basis for why I liked it so much. Jane Goodale (Ashley Judd) plays a TV show executive who beyond all warnings in our "how to get a man" manual, falls for her boss Ray (Greg Kinnear).

True to form for a romantic comedy, everything is great with the couple when out of nowhere he dumps her, leaving Jane to pick up all the pieces. While trying to figure out why things always go wrong in her "love life," Jane comes across an article that becomes the pinnacle of her existence and her new theory on men.

It's the New/Old Cow Theory, which compares men to the mating habits of cows. The theory explains how bulls won't go back to an "old cow," no matter how much the old cow disguises itself, the bull only wants "new cow!" Now finding herself as a post break-up "old cow," Jane is determined to prove her theory in greater depth, discrediting men and their sneaky ways becomes her obsession.

The movie is pretty predictable throughout, but throws a nice curve ball at the end when Jane falls in love with another, leaving the audience to think this one will work and everyone lives happily ever after.

The writers based their material on Laura Zigman's novel *Animal Husbandry*. I feel the writers could've done more though, they left a lot of questions unanswered for problems introduced with supporting characters such as her roommate Eddie (Hugh Jackman) and bestfriend Liz (Marisa Tomei).

Any girl who's been dumped can relate to this film and is sure to enjoy the 100 minutes of men bashing. Though men are sure to squirm through the torture of a chick flick, this is a great film to get some extra points or even redeem you from the doghouse for the weekend!

I found this film to be a lighthearted and entertaining comedy providing irrational but humorous answers to the broken female heart. I rate this film five stars.

By JOSN Bridgette Bolt



# SIG SPORTS

By Doug Hasselbring, NASSIG Athletic Director

**Results:**

<u>2-Person Scramble Golf Tournament: May 11</u>	
1st Place: Chou & Covey	70
2nd Place: Brown & Johnston	70
3rd Place: Sayler & Johnson	73

<u>Captain’s Cup Court Soccer</u>	
1st Place:	AIMD
2nd Place:	COMSTA
3rd Place:	VP-10

<u>Post Season Tournament</u>	
1st Place:	VP-10
2nd Place:	AIMD
3rd Place:	TSC

Catania Marathon  
Congratulations are in order for the Sigonella running community. Recently over 30 Sigonellans competed in either the half–marathon (13.1 miles) or the full marathon (26.2) miles, held in Catania.

**Upcoming Events:**  
**Body Building Competition: June 1**

Check out some muscular bodies and cheer on your shipmates! The show starts at 6 p.m. at the NAS I Theater. Men and women will compete in three different weight divisions for some massive trophies. It’s going to be a great event so don’t miss it! For more information, call Melissa at x5238 or Jenny at x3873.

**Swim Around Sicily: June 1-July 31**  
Are you a regular swimmer? Log your laps at either pool and earn a t-shirt for swimming at least 25,000 meters (500 laps) and a chance to enter the grand prize drawing! For more information, call x5335 or x4334.

**Sigonella Softball Schedule:**

Fri. May 24 - A league  
4:45 PWD vs. AIMD ‘A’  
6:00 Security vs. TSC  
7:15 Supply vs. COMSTA ‘A’

Tue. May 28 - A league  
4:45 Weapons vs. Security  
6:00 COMSTA ‘A’ vs. Weapons  
7:15 Supply vs. TSC  
8:30 AIMD ‘A’ vs. PWD

Wed. May 29 - Ladies Night  
4:45 COMSTA- no game  
6:00 Supply vs. MWR  
7:15 AIMD vs. Security  
8:30 VP 10 vs. NAVHOSP

Thurs. May 30 - B league  
4:45 COMSTA ‘B’ vs. Supply ‘B’  
6:00 Ops vs. NAVHOSP  
7:15 NMCB7 vs. ADMIN  
8:30 HC 4 vs. EOD  
\*For additonal information contact Ron at x2710.



Paterno Warriors baseball association would like to invite the Sigonella community out to the ballpark! Come out and enjoy a season of great baseball and fun! If there are any questions, please contact: Jessie Torrecillas at x3523, or 095-563523.

**Warriors Paternò - Modena**  
Fri. May 24, 3 p.m. and Sat. May 25, 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

**Warriors Paternò - Danish Neptune**  
Sat. June 8, 4 p.m. and Sun. June 9, 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

**Warriors Paternò - Florence**  
Fri. June 21, 3:30 p.m. and Sat. June 22, 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

**Warriors Paternò - Italeri Bologna**  
Fri. June 28, 4 p.m. and Sat. June 29, 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

**Warriors Paternò - Cus Parma**  
Fri. July 5, 4 p.m. and Sat. June 6, 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

**Warriors Paternò - Grosseto**  
Sat. July 27, 4 p.m. and Sun. July 27, 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

**Warriors Paternò - Semex Codogno**  
Sat. Aug. 24, 4 p.m. and Sun. Aug. 25, 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

**Warriors Paternò - Colavita Anzio**  
Fri. Sept. 6, 8:30 p.m. and Saturday Sept. 7, 3:30 and 8:30 p.m.

From NAS I, go left, follow that road past the Tamoil and the train tracks, make a right where you see the “Paterno” sign (after the train tracks), follow that road straight until you see the AGIP station (it will be a while). Right when you pass the AGIP, you will be at an intersection. Make a right. Immediately make the first right. You will see the field on the left a few blocks down.

## Sigonella daughters at work



Photo by EO1 Gary Reyna

Recently NASSIG took part in “Take your Daughter to Work Day.” Here, the daughter of a Seabee displayed “can do” spirit. Rebekah Reyna, daughter of EO1 Gary Reyna, is a third grader at Stephen Decatur School. While at work with her dad, Rebekah assisted with a front-end-loader for the re-shaping of a parking lot. EO3 Tom Henneman assisted her and ensured all her safety equipment was on. Rebekah took a break from her parking lot duties for a tour of a bulldozer. There were many Sigonellan daughters who participated in the day’s event, with jobs from sweeping hangars to answering phones. The day offers daughters the motivation to strive for anything they want in life, and gives them a taste of what mom and dad do for a living.

Ad space

AFN Sigonella television schedule

CET	Friday, May 24	Saturday, May 25	Sunday, May 26	Monday, May 27	Tuesday, May 28	Wednesday, May 29	Thursday, May 30	Friday, May 31	CET
00:00	ESPN News	ESPN News	NBA cont.	Sports cont.	ESPN News	ESPN News	ESPN News	ESPN News	00:00
00:30	NHL	Movie: <i>The Snv Who I oved</i>	Saturday Night Live		Movie: <i>License to Drive</i>	Movie: <i>The Bridge Over the</i>	Movie: <i>The Wedding Singer</i>	Movie: <i>Tombstone</i>	00:30
01:00									01:00
01:30									01:30
02:00									02:00
02:30									02:30
03:00		Movie: <i>Single White Female</i>	Late Fridav	Meet the Press	Movie: <i>Doa Dav Afternoon</i>	American Athlete	Movie: <i>The China</i>	Movie: <i>Sons of Katie Elder</i>	03:00
03:30	ESPN News								03:30
04:00	Headline News				Headline News		Headline News	Headline News	04:00
04:30	ABC World News		Entertainers		ABC World News		ABC World News	ABC World News	04:30
05:00	ESPN News		Headline News		ESPN News		Headline News	ESPN News	05:00
05:30	NBC Nightly News	ABC World News	Hour of Power	ESPN News	NBC Nightly News	NBC Nightly News	NBC Nightly News	NBC Nightly News	05:30
06:00	<i>Sesame Street</i>	ESPN News	Creflo Dollar	Sesame Street	Sesame Street	Sesame Street	Sesame Street	Sesame Street	06:00
06:30		NBC Nightly News	Coral Ridge Hour		Sagwa	Richard Scarry			06:30
07:00	Teletubbies	Dragon Tales	Christopher Closeup	Harold and the Purple Crayon	Wheel of Fortune	Wheel of Fortune	Blues Clues	Teletubbies	07:00
07:30	Wheel of Fortune	Clifford	Cafe Video	Wheel of Fortune	Oprah Winfrey	Oprah Winfrev	Wheel of Fortune	Wheel of Fortune	07:30
08:00	Oorah Winfrev	Mary Kate & Ashley	Little Bear	Oprah Winfrey		Oprah Winfrev	Oprah Winfrev	Oprah Winfrev	08:00
08:30		Rugrats	Reading Rainbow		Port Charles	Port Charles			08:30
09:00	Port Charles	Jackie Chan	Familiv Movie:	Port Charles	Guidinq Light	Guidinq Light	Port Charles	Port Charles	09:00
09:30	Guiding Light	Lizzie McGuire		Guiding Light				Guidinq Light	09:30
10:00	General Hosnital	Junkvard Wars			General Hospital	General Hospital	Guiding Light		10:00
10:30			Rugrats	General Hospital			General Hospital	General Hospital	10:30
11:00	Headline News	This Old House	Outward Bound	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	11:00
11:30	Judge Judy	Motor Week	At the Movies	Judge Judy	Judge Judy	Judge Judy	Judge Judy	Judge Judy	11:30
12:00	Today	Entertainment Tonight	Headline News	Today	Today	Today	Today	Today	12:00
12:30			Army Newswatch						12:30
13:00		WWF Smackdown	<i>Andromeda</i>						13:00
13:30									13:30
14:00	Arthur	<i>my time and ruse</i>	ESPNNews	Winnie the Pooh	Mighty Ducks	Hey Arnold	Rugrats	Arthur	14:00
14:30	The Proud Family	King of Queens		Wild Thornberries	As Told by Ginger	Disney's Mouseworks	Squigglevision	The Proud Family	14:30
15:00	7th Heaven	Enterorise	WWF Superstars	Horrible Histories	Nick News	Croc Files	Pokemon	7th Heaven	15:00
15:30				Even Stevens	The Amanda Show	Bonehead	Men in Black		15:30
16:00	Jeopardy!	Law & Order	Salute to the Militarv	Jeopardy!	Jeopardy	Jeopardy!	Jeopardy!	Jeopardy!	16:00
16:30	Headline News			Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	16:30
17:00	CNN	Headline News	Indv 500	ESPN News	ESPN News	ESPN News	ESPN News	CNN	17:00
17:30	Headline News	Navy/Marine Corps News		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	17:30
18:00	The Simpsons	SportsCenter		60 Minutes	7th Heaven	The Steve Harvey Show	Dharma & Greg	The Simpsons	18:00
18:30	That 70's Show	NASCAR				Bernie Mac Show	Titus	Malcolm in the Middle	18:30
19:00	Survivor IV			The West Winn	Movie: <i>The World is Not</i>	Dark Annel	The Drew Carey Show	Bloopers	19:00
19:30							The Drew Carey Show		19:30
20:00	Alias			NYPD Blue		Boston Public	ER	Alias	20:00
20:30									20:30
21:00	Headline News			Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	21:00
21:30	Tonight Show w/ Jav Leno		Laureus Sports Awards	Tonight Show w/Jay Leno	Tonight Show w/Jay Leno	Tonight Show w/ Jav Leno	Tonight Show w/.lav l enn	Tonight Show w/ Jay Leno	21:30
22:00		Before They Go Green	NBA Pregame and Playoffs						22:00
22:30	Late Show w / Letterman			Late Show w/Letterman	Late Show w/Letterman	Late Show w / Letterman	Late Show w/Letterman	Late Show w / Letterman	22:30
23:00		NBA Pregame and Playoffs							23:00
23:30				ESPN News	ESPN News				23:30

Ad space

# Leave the stray animals alone!



By JO3 Jay Price

Be aware of what you do, you could be interrupting Mother Nature’s plan.

First, remember that once you start to feed a stray, you have now made it co-dependant on your food supply and it will soon forget the ways of survival. Feeding an animal that you do not intend to keep is just sentencing the animal to more pain and suffering once you leave or stop feeding. In addition, feeding cats and dogs on government property is now prohibited as per the CNO’s policy effective Jan. 10.



If you see a kitten or puppy around, do not touch it! Once the scent of human is on a kitten or puppy, the mother that didn’t seem to be around at the time may eventually come back and will reject its young because it now smells like a human.

Unfortunately, service members cannot help a stray by bringing it to the Stray Animal Facility. Most of the time, SAF is too full to house the animals they already have. Also, when you pick up an animal from on base or off base, the animal now belongs to you, and it is your responsibility. If you leave an animal, pet or stray, on or off base (i.e. PCSing) and hope someone will adopt it, it is considered abandonment and is punishable under the UCMJ, in addition to local Italian

law, which carries hefty fines.

Cruelty to animals isn’t when SAF rejects your proposal to take in the stray; it’s when you take it from its environment thinking you are doing a good thing. The SAF can assist you in finding a home for the animal through various contacts and ideas.

SAF in conjunction with the Vet Clinic and Sigonella Animal Welfare Society (SAWS), has a ‘catch and release’ program where they will catch stray cats, vaccinate, deworm and spay/neuter the animal, then release the animal where it was found a few days later. A notch is taken from the left ear of every ‘catch and release’ animal to help identify which animals have been helped.

Remember, just because a stray cat has a

notch in it’s left ear, does not mean the animal is safe to touch. Strays often have a tendency to attack, no matter how adorable they are, and they still may carry unseen diseases.

Many strays have diseases that are transmittable to humans, like mange or ringworm. Kittens and puppies are more likely to have these diseases because of their recent introduction to the world.

If you spot a stray animal wandering on government property, don’t touch it. Give SAF a call to notify them of its location.

For more information on how you can help the stray animals of Sigonella please call SAF at 624-3200/3936 or email SAWS at [saws02@yahoo.com](mailto:saws02@yahoo.com).

Ad space